

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hannon on 2-12-2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please re-write the entire claim 51 as follows: --A process according to claim 27, in which the said heterocyclic ring is an unsubstituted furanic thiofenic, or pyrrolic ring. -

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention is claimed is drawn to a controlled radical grafting process of a polyolefin, derived from monomeric units comprising α -olefins, comprising the reaction of the polyolefin and at least one radical reaction initiator with a grafting system which comprises at least one grafting compound having an electron donor heterocyclic aromatic ring conjugated to at least one $-\text{HC}=\text{CR}_1\text{R}_2$ group in which at least one of R_1 and R_2 is an electron acceptor functional group, wherein said grafting system further includes at least one unsaturated compound which has at least one group which reacts

with an aminic and/or carboxylic and/or hydroxylic functionality and is chosen from acrylic and methacrylic compounds, maleic anhydride, derivatives ester of maleic anhydride, and their mixtures.

While crosslinking of polyolefins with the claimed agent comprising an *electron donator heterocyclic aromatic ring conjugated to at least one -HC=CR₁R₂ group in which at least one of R₁ and R₂ is an electron acceptor functional group* is known in the art, as well as *crosslinking or grafting polyolefins with unsaturated acids* is also known in the art (which are no similar reactions), no prior art of record teaches or fairly suggest a process of modifying polyolefins that involved grafting agent comprising both the heterocyclic compound as claimed and an additional unsaturated compound in combination with all other limitations of the claimed process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irina S. Zemel whose telephone number is (571)272-0577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571)272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Irina S. Zemel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

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